

**A NEW SPECIES OF MARINE HYDRACHNELLAE
FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**

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Amongst the Hydrachnoidea of the Acarina, two families, the *Pontarachnidae* and *Nautarachnidae*, have species which are marine instead of fresh water inhabitants. The first family contains the two genera *Pontarachna* Philippi, and *Litarachna* Walter, of which the latter only has so far been recorded from Australian coasts. *Litarachna denhami* (Lohm.) was collected by the Michaelsen

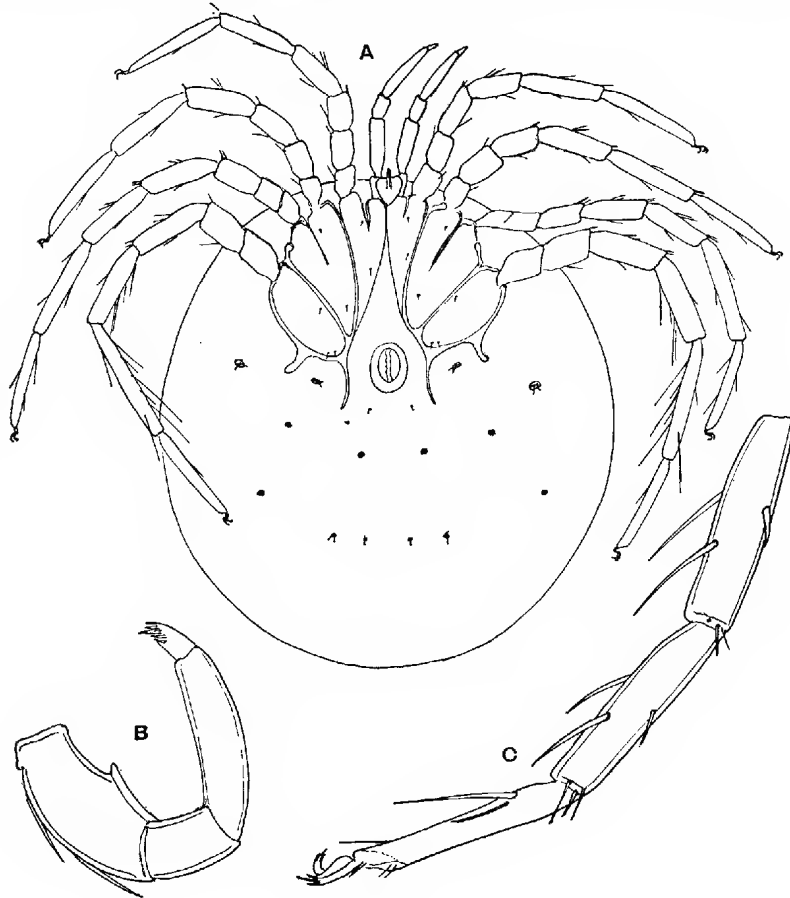


Fig. 1.

Hartmeyer Expedition from Denham, Shark's Bay, Western Australia, and was described by Lohman under the generic name of *Pontarachna* in *Fauna Südwest Australiens*, vol. ii, p. 151, 1909. It was later placed by Walter in a new genus, *Litarachna*.

Recently two specimens from the coast of South Australia have been found, which belong to the genus *Pontarachna* s. str., and, in fact, are very close indeed to the European, *P. punctulum*, known from the Bay of Naples. The first specimen was obtained from the reef at Sellick's Beach, in sargassum, on May 1, 1936, by Mr. H. M. Hale, and I have, therefore, pleasure in naming it after him. The second specimen was obtained by Mr. B. C. Cotton, from Moreton Bay, Rcevsby Island, Spncr Gulf, South Australia, while with the McCoy Expedition of Melbourne University, December 9, 1936.

***Pontarachna halei*, sp. n.**

(Text fig. 1, A-C.)

General form as in *P. punctulum* Phil., without colour, but the dorsal surface with a somewhat lighter cross. Eyes lateral on the front of the body. Capitulum small. Maxillary palpi (fig. 1, B) not as stout as the front legs, 5-segmented, reaching apex of fourth segment of leg I, second segment about twice as long as first or third, fourth about two and a half times as long as third, fifth one-fourth length of fourth, furnished apically with 3-4 pencils, segments with few setae. Mandibles short, indeterminate. Legs with a few swimming hairs on IV, with strong paired spines on inner side of segments of other legs (fig. 1, C). Claws three pointed; epimera of all four legs touching, epimera IV posteriorly with two processes, the inner ones much more slender than in *punctulum*, outer ones shorter and thicker and lateralwards curved. Female genital orifice large and situated between inner processes of epimera IV. Ten pores on ventral surface; an anterior row of four, one between each pair of processes of epimera IV and one outside of these, which are all simple ring-like openings with adjacent paired fine short setae; posterior of these a row of four small rosette-like pores without setae and posterior of the lateral ones of this row, two more rosette-like pores. Epimera I with two, II with one, III with one, IV with three short fine setae; between inner processes of IV and posterior of genital foramen, two more fine short setae, and posterior on venter six more fine short setae arising from four small tubercles, so that the lateral pairs arise from a single tubercle.

Length, 720 μ ; width, 650 μ .

Remarks—The species is very close indeed to *P. punctulum* from the Bay of Naples, but appears to differ in the minute details of the pores and setae on the ventral surface.